



96936000009033

w a v e s

3960c

partners
in air

NEWS
LETTER

SPRING 2000

► Environment's new Minister, **Dan Newman**, visited **Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute** in Scarborough to give special recognition to students for their work in the Partners in Air program. He congratulated the corporate sponsors who have been an integral part of this program – **Shell Canada Limited, Ontario Power Generation Inc., Petro-Canada, Dofasco Inc. and General Motors of Canada Limited** as well as our newest partner, **St. Lawrence Cement Inc.**

Mr. Newman is standing at the front, fourth from the right, with **Donna Hildebrant** of Petro-Canada (third from the right), **Ruksana Mirza** of St. Lawrence Cement Inc., (fifth from the right), **Lesley Taylor** of Shell Canada Limited (fifth from the left), and **John Grieves** of the Ontario Power Generation Inc. (third from the left).

Partners
in action

▼ Former Environment Minister **Tony Clement** (centre), along with **Patrick Creaghan** (front row, fourth from the left) and **Lesley Taylor** (front row far left) of Shell Canada Ltd., a Partners in Air corporate sponsor, recently visited **Monsignor Percy Johnson Secondary School** in Rexdale. They commended staff and students for their dedication to the program.



▲ Partners in Air was recently launched at **Lorne Park Secondary School** in Mississauga. Former Environment Minister **Tony Clement** (left) was on hand to receive a cheque for \$60,000 from **Randy Koenig**, vice-president at Petro-Canada (far right). The money will help pay for the equipment the school needs to participate in the Partners in Air program. The ministry's mobile air monitoring unit is in the background.



Copyright Provisions and Restrictions on Copying:

This Ontario Ministry of the Environment work is protected by Crown copyright (unless otherwise indicated), which is held by the Queen's Printer for Ontario. It may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes if credit is given and Crown copyright is acknowledged.

It may not be reproduced, in all or in part, for any commercial purpose except under a licence from the Queen's Printer for Ontario.

For information on reproducing Government of Ontario works, please contact ServiceOntario Publications at copyright@ontario.ca

Talking to the new minister



Silmi Abdullah,
from Birchmount Park Collegiate
Institute, Scarborough,
interviews Dan Newman

Dan Newman was about half my age - only eight years old - when he first got a taste for politics by writing a

letter to the premier of Ontario.

Young Dan had a problem back in 1971. His father was in hospital undergoing an operation, so who was going to cut the grass at his home? Premier Bill Davis obliged the eight-year-old by sending some people to do the job, thus teaching Dan that politics is indeed the art of the possible.

It was a lesson he never forgot as he began studying election campaigns on television. He ran successfully to become high school president, and then obtained a political science degree from the University of Toronto, before finally getting elected in 1995. This year he entered the Cabinet as the new Minister of the Environment.

I enjoyed talking to the Minister, because he made it clear he likes to help people and believes the Partners in Air program is one way of achieving that goal. Mr. Newman is optimistic about the program in which I'm involved, with other students, at Birchmount Collegiate.

"Instead of just analyzing charts and graphs, students learn about the issues in a hands-on way," he said. "And when you tune up your cars you realize you are contributing to improved air quality."

In his view, one of the most positive aspects of the program is that students and teachers are working closely with his ministry and that together we will clean up our environment. □



Partners in Air is an air quality and environmental education initiative that currently involves students and teachers in 13 Ontario secondary schools. Using program-sponsored equipment and materials, the students learn how to sample, test and analyze atmospheric contaminants and develop local air quality parameters. The program complements Ontario's secondary school science and technology curriculum, and is designed both to facilitate hands-on learning and build students' environmental awareness.

The high schools participating in the two-year Partners in Air pilot program are:

- ◆ A.B. Lucas Secondary School, London
- ◆ Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute, Scarborough
- ◆ Cobourg District West Secondary School, Cobourg
- ◆ Hammariskjold Secondary School, Thunder Bay
- ◆ Huntsville High School, Huntsville
- ◆ Lorne Park Secondary School, Mississauga
- ◆ Monsignor Johnson High School, Toronto
- ◆ Riverside Secondary School, Windsor
- ◆ Sarnia Northern Collegiate Institute, Sarnia
- ◆ Sir Allan MacNab Secondary, Hamilton
- ◆ Sudbury Secondary School, Sudbury
- ◆ West Carleton Secondary, Dunrobin
- ◆ Widdifield Secondary School, North Bay



Ministry of the Environment

INAUGURAL CORPORATE SPONSORS

DOFASCO



Shell

**ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION**



Air Waves is a publication of the Ministry of the Environment, produced by Communications Branch.

We welcome stories, photographs and story ideas on a Partners in Air project.

Send your submission with contact name and telephone number to:
Ministry of the Environment, Communications Branch
2nd Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto ON M4V 1P5
Fax: (416) 314-6711



Printed on 100% recycled paper
including 75% post-consumer fibre

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2000
PIBS 3960E ISSN 1492-6598

Did you know?

Vehicle exhaust is one of the major causes of smog. You can do your part to help combat smog by ensuring you are driving clean. Read on for some helpful tips:

- ☐ Is your vehicle in tune? A poorly tuned engine can consume an average of 10 per cent more fuel.



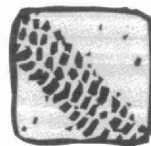
- ☐ One equals 20. One poorly tuned vehicle can emit pollutants equivalent to 20 properly tuned cars.



- ☐ Don't let your engine idle. Excessive idling pollutes. Turn off the engine whenever you can.



- ☐ Light is right. The heavier the car, the more fuel it burns. Avoid unnecessary weight.



- ☐ Low tires put pressure on fuel. Properly inflated tires improve fuel performance.

- ☐ 90 is optimum. The best speed for fuel economy for most vehicles is under 90 km/h.

- ☐ Be aerodynamic. Reducing wind resistance on the highway cuts fuel consumption. Try rolling up the windows and opening the vents.



- ☐ Share a ride. Carpooling reduces the number of vehicles on the road.



DOFASCO INC. is one of the most successful steel producers in North America and has always been involved in supporting community issues in the Hamilton/Wentworth region where many of its workers live.

General manager **Vasudha Seth** handles environment and energy issues for the company.

"Partners in Air is a good fit for us," she says, "because we have a history of being involved in the kind of work that results in better education, mostly by putting money into programs like this one."

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION INC. is a major North American electricity generating complex. Over the past 18 years, with its predecessor Ontario Hydro, the company has reduced acid gas emissions from its coal-fired plants. Its anti-pollution programs cost more than \$1 billion.

"These stations produce as much energy as they did a decade ago - but with 60 per cent fewer gas emissions," says **Angelo Castellan**, an OPG spokesman. "We are continuing our efforts to reduce emissions even further."

Mr Castellan believes the Partners in Air program will advance good science and public education, both of which are critical in helping Ontario achieve its air quality goals.

SHELL CANADA LIMITED is one of the biggest petroleum companies in the country. It is also a major producer of natural gas, natural gas liquids, and bitumen, and one of the largest producers of sulphur in the world.

Patrick Creaghan, vice-president of Ontario markets for Shell Canada, says the company's Web site at www.shell.ca has lots of information about its programs dealing with the environment. "And we're pleased to work with the Ministry of the Environment to bring the PIA program to Ontario schools," he adds.

"It's a valuable educational initiative."

PETRO-CANADA says it's proud to sponsor the program. It considers it "exciting education" that involves students and teachers in a hands-on way to better understand the issues of air quality.

"It combines two of our key priorities — the environment and our social vision," says **Randy Koenig**, one of the company's vice-presidents. That vision he describes as "investing our energy to develop Canadian talent, expertise and innovation through education."

Students design 'how to' Web site

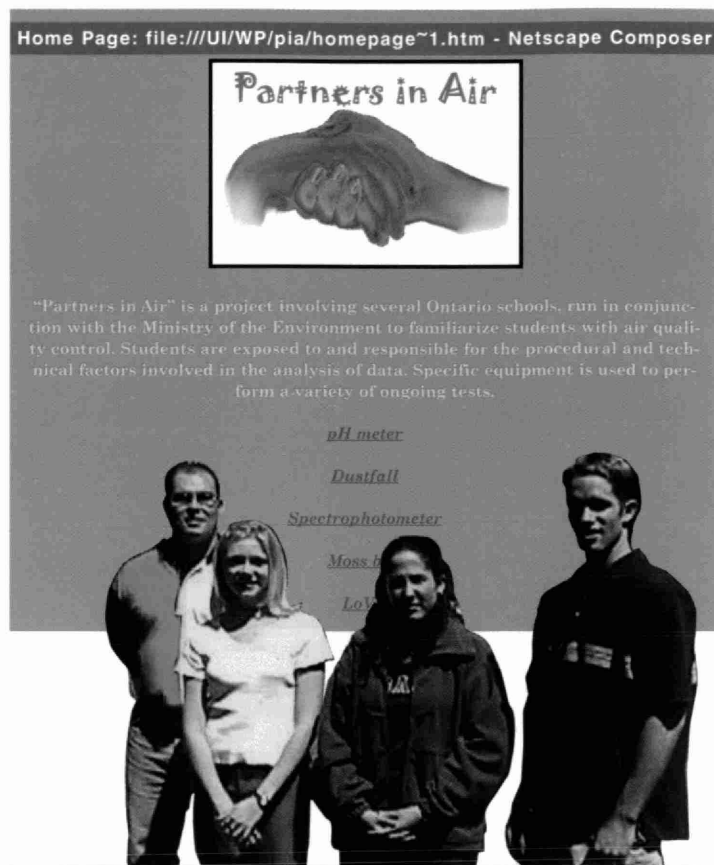
Six students at Sarnia Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School decided not to do their final science and society OAC paper last spring. And their science teacher, Jim Stewart, didn't object.

Instead of doing the typical end-of-term paper, the four students chose to design and create a "how to" Web site for the Partners in Air component of their OAC science course. The site will be a resource for all students taking the Partners in Air curriculum in the future.

"I like it a lot better than having to do a formal paper," said Ann-Christine Grimwood, an 18-year OAC student who was one of the six students that put together the Web site. "It's not the same old thing. This is more hands on."

As for designing the actual Web site, Grimwood said her group got a lot of support from others at the school who were experienced in this area. Her primary concern was the site's content.

The group needed to learn first how to operate the Partners in Air equipment – such as the spectrophotometer, pH meter, stereo microscope and low-volume air sampler – before they could write their how-to guide.



Jim Stewart (far left), science teacher at the **Sarnia Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School** poses with three of the six students who designed and created the 'how to' Web site for the Partners in Air program.

Stewart, who taught the class of 24 students, said the idea for the Web site evolved through discussions. It soon became apparent that the group wanted to create something that would be of use to future classes.

Stewart said he finds the Partners in Air curriculum a useful teaching tool, because it allows his students to experience science in an interactive fashion.

It's the uncontrolled nature of real scientific experiment that, he said, makes the Partner's in Air material such a great experience for students.

As in a typical science lab, the outcomes aren't predetermined, making the exercises more like the way science is actually conducted outside the classroom.

"They get an understanding of how real science works," Stewart said.

The chance to operate equipment used by scientists at the Ministry of the Environment adds to the students' interest. "It's the excitement of doing something real. It's the active involvement that really turns them on."

It's not your "everyday blackboard work," Stewart added.

"We decided, because it was late in the school year, that the best thing was to figure out how to use the material and set something up that other classes could use," he said. "So this group pioneered it for us."

In addition to learning about the science of air monitoring, the students are getting an excellent opportunity to work with the Web. They are gaining important real-life experience with this popular new technology.

Stewart said one real benefit of the Partners in Air curriculum, and this particular project, is that it helps teach students about career choices.

Grimwood said her group's project will be determined a success if future students find the Web site to be informative and helpful. "We want to give them clear instructions that they can follow and learn from."

Patrick Creaghan of Shell Canada, a Partners in Air sponsor company, was very pleased to learn of the students' project. "As a corporate sponsor, we helped launch the program at Sarnia Northern, and we are pleased that the students are making the most of it and embracing technology with such positive results," said Creaghan. □